Major steps taken by Government for improving the TPDS are these:

(i) A 9-point action plan has been under implementation by State/UT Governments. This has resulted in improvemnt in its functioning in terms of detection and elimination of bogus/fake ration cards, involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), setting up Vigilance Committee, door delivery of foodgrains, etc.

(ii) Concurrent evaluation of TPDS has been taken up in 26 States and UTs through NCAER and IIPA, New Delhi.

(iii) A revised Citizens' Charter has been issued in July, 2007 for adoption and implementation by State/UT Governments for facilitaing use by citizens of provisions of Right to Information Act, 2005 in relation to functioning of TPDS.

(iv) To ensure that TPDS foodgrains reach the targeted families and to minimize scope for their diversion, APL allocations have been rationalized.

(v) Training Programmes for TPDS functionaries and Awareness campaign for TPDS beneficiaries are being taken up.

(vi) Computerization of TPDS has been initiated.

(vii) Use of new technologies such as Global Positioning System is being piloted.

(viii) Revised policy on distribution of wheat flour has been issued.

Ban on export of oilseeds and edible oils

841. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to recommend ban of export of oilseeds and edible oil to contain domestic prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) Government have not taken any decision to ban export of oilseeds and edible oils as on date.

Quality of imported wheat

†842. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quality of imported wheat is being questioned;

(b) whether it is costly, too; and

(c) whether Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh has complained against biased treatment in terms of foodgrain distributions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir. However, a complaint

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

was received from the State Government of Maharashtra in April, 2007 about the quality of imported wheat being distributed through PDS Joint samples drawn by the officers of FCI and State Governments from Food Storage Depots at Mumbai were found fit for human consumption on analysis in State Public Health Laboratory, Pune.

(b) The import of wheat has been done at internationally competitive price against global tenders.

(c) Allocation of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has been rationalized for all States, including Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh based on their offtake during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06. Government of Madhya Pradesh has stated that monthly allocation of foodgrains for Above Poverty Line (APL) families in case of Madhya Pradesh is lower as compared to similar large States like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and West Bengal. Government of Chhattisgarh has requested to retain the allocation of rice for APL at the level of 2006-07 for the State.

Import of wheat

843. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT:

SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat imported during 2005-06, 2006-07 and during 2007-08, till December, 2007;

(b) the production of wheat in the country during the above period; and

(c) the procurement of wheat during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No wheat was imported by the Government during 2005-06. Out of orders placed for import of 55 lakh tons in 2006-07, a quantity of 53.79 lakh tons arrived in 2006-07 and 0.75 lakh tons in 2007-08. Further, orders have been placed for import of 17.985 lakh tons in 2007-08, of which 17.68 lakh tons have been received as on 4.3.2008.

(b) and (c) The production and procurement of wheat in the country in the above mentioned period is as under:

(*In lakh tonnes*)

Crop Year	Marketing Year	Production	Procurement
2005-06	2006-07	693.5	92.3
2006-07	2007-08	758.1	111.3
2007-08(estimated)	2008-09	748.1	Yet to start